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NSC BRIEFING

23 January 1957

THE KASHMIR SITUATION

- I. Reports of mounting Indo-Pakistani tension over Kashmir.
 - A. Accusations of troop movements.
 - B. Restlessness of Pakistani tribesmen.
 - C. Student demonstrations in Pakistan and India.
- II. These reports, many probably exaggerated, reminiscent of earlier propaganda buildups by both sides.
- III. Both India and Pakistan concentrating major efforts in UN at present.
 - A. Pakistan has suggested UN force and plebiscite.
 - B. India, which will reject UN troops idea, centers its case on Kashmir being part of India since 1947.
- IV. Subsequent actions both sides will depend on EC disposition of case.
 - A. If Pak gets something to show people, it might be satisfied for a time.

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- V. Soviet injection of large quantities of arms into Afghanistan could encourage more frontier activity and therefore more friction in Kashmir.

Army review(s) completed.

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23 January 1957

THE KASHMIR SITUATION

I. With Kashmir case now in UN Security Council, reports are being received of mounting Indo-Pakistani tension.

A. Each side is accusing other of reinforcing troops in Kashmir and of making military preparations.

1. India charges that Pakistan now has 45 battalions in Azad Kashmir.

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B. Tribesmen in Pakistani-held Kashmir are reported restless, ready to fight if UN does not provide satisfactory solution.

C. Student demonstrations held in Karachi, Lahore and New Delhi, with effigies burnt and flags insulted.

II. These reports some of them greatly exaggerated, e.g. G-2 carries 20 battalions as total strength of Azad forces not 45, are strongly reminiscent of propaganda buildups preceding earlier UN and bilateral sessions on Kashmir, but clearly point up festering nature of problem.

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- III. Both India and Pakistan are concentrating their major efforts at the moment in the Security Council.
- A. Pakistan, in obvious effort to discredit India's moral position, on 16 January suggested mutual withdrawal of troops, their replacement by UN forces, and preparations for peaceful plebiscite.
- B. India unlikely to agree to any UN troops and counter-effort seems to be centering on theme that Kashmir has belonged to India since 1947.
1. Most recent item is Kashmir constitution, coming into full effect on 26 January, making all of Kashmir an integral part of the Union of India.
- IV. Subsequent actions by both countries will depend on SC disposition of case.
- A. If Pak government gets something out of UN it can display to its people as a partial victory, it might be satisfied for the time being.
- B. Under these circumstances there would be little threat of military adventures.
- C. Even if SC failed to reach a solution, Suhrawardy has stated next step would be to take issue to UN General Assembly.
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- V. The injection of large quantities of arms into Afghanistan, which USSR has begun, could generally encourage more frontier activity in this part of world and create more friction on the Isachair frontiers.

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